

Model Permission to Sample Cover Letter

[HEALTH DEPARTMENT LETTERHEAD]

Date

Dear MAIL MERGE

New state law – Free Soil Safety Program for your [childcare or school]

I am writing you about a new program intended to protect children from the harmful effects of arsenic and lead. Called the Soil Safety program, the program is part of a new state law (Chapter 70.140 Revised Code of Washington). The law requires all childcares and schools with soil possibly polluted by the Tacoma Asarco smelter to have their soil tested for arsenic and lead.

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) funds the program and works in partnership with the [HEALTH DEPT NAME] (health department). The health department provides free soil sampling, education and assistance. (Please read the enclosed *Soil Safety Program* handout for details.)

Please sign up for free soil testing by filling out and returning the enclosed permission form. Once I receive your signed form, I will call you and set up a soil testing day and time that is convenient for you.

Soil testing crews will:

- Evaluate the property to see if children may come in contact with polluted soil.
- Take soil samples from child play areas, if needed (samples will be taken from top 6 inches of soil).
- Refill sampling holes.
- Have soil samples tested by a certified laboratory.

If the amount of arsenic and/or lead in your soil is above state standards, the health department and Ecology will work with you and provide free assistance to make your childcare a safer and healthier place for children.

Please sign and return the enclosed permission form within two weeks to ensure you receive the soil sampling and related free services in a timely way. If you have any questions, please call me at XXX-XXX-XXXX or send an email to [STAFF EMAIL]. For TTY, please call XXX or 1-800-XXX-XXXX.

You may also log on to Ecology's website at [WEBSITE ADDRESS] for more information about the Soil Safety Program, the state law (RCW 70.140), arsenic and lead, and other soil safety resources. You can also find information about the program on our website at [WEBSITE ADDRESS].

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAME]

DIRT
ALERT LOGO